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RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3425  
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RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 4809  
RUEHCL/AMCONSUL CASABLANCA 3609

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 RABAT 001657

SIPDIS

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EO 12958 DECL: 10/29/2017  
TAGS PREL, PGOV, MO, FR  
SUBJECT: SARKOZY SWEEPS MOROCCO OFF ITS FEET

Classified by DCM Robert P. Jackson for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary: French President Sarkozy's October 22-24 visit to Morocco was viewed as a success by both sides. During a star-like visit and  
Leaning Farther Forward on Sahara

2. (C) In an interview with the pro-Palace daily Le Matin just before his arrival, Sarkozy described Morocco's autonomy proposal for the Sahar  
Mediterranean Union and Other Themes

3. (SBU) During an October 26 briefing, French Ambassador Jean-Francois Thibault emphasized to the DCM and other members of the diplomatic cor

4. (SBU) In that context, Thibault spent several minutes describing the proposed Mediterranean Union Summit in June 2008. While noting that th

5. (SBU) Queried about international issues, Thibault said there had been little discussion beyond the public statements about Iran and the Mi  
Economic Agreements and Military Sales

6. (SBU) Though downplaying the economic issues that received the greatest coverage in local media, Thibault confirmed that French companies h  
RABAT 00001657 002 OF 002 French companies Alstom, SNCF, and Reseau Ferre de France.

7. (SBU) The proposal, which has been under study since 2004, was apparently seized on as a centerpiece for the visit once it became apparent

8. (SBU) Other military contracts concluded during the visit included the sale of a French frigate and the upgrade of 25 Puma helicopters and

Press Coverage - Ecstatic, with Exceptions

9. (SBU) The visit generated numerous positive images and sound bytes. During Sarkozy's address to parliament he called for "a real partnershi

10. (SBU) Though press coverage of Sarkozy's visit was overwhelmingly positive, some commentators voiced resentment - the independent (Arabic)

11. (C) While Sarkozy was generally well received, there was much gossip in Moroccan salons about a "too relaxed" President slouching comforts

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